GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5001
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2000
INDIA TURNING INTO A SOFT STATE
ABDUL HAMID

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government`s attention has been drawn to the press reports that India has become a `Soft State` in the aftermath of the recent hijack of Indian Airlines plane; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) Government have seen the reports appearing in the national media.

(b) In handling the situation arising from the hijacking Government set for itself clear priorities. These were: (a) the earliest termination of the hijacking; (b) the safe return of the passenger, crew and aircraft; and (c) safeguarding national security. The manner in which the termination of the hijacking was secured met the priorities that the Government had set out. The hijacking of IC-814 has only made stronger Government`s resolve to combat the menace of terrorism.